

APPENDIX A. Comments on Murray Douglas Conservation Easements Acquisition EA received by FWP via email and mail.

Com-
men-
ter #

Comment

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | I support the acquisition of the Murray Douglas CEs. It is important habitat and should be protected as important habitat for a variety of species. It is imperative the covenants on the property include a right of access for reasonable opportunities for hunting, fishing and recreation. This does not mean unfettered public access but reasonable access. Motorized use should be reasonably limited to avoid game disturbance. |
| 2 | I support the proposed purchase of the MURRAY DOUGLAS, MURRAY CREEK, AND DOUGLAS CREEK CONSERVATION EASEMENTS. Purchasing these distinct conservation easements, that total 10,760 acres, from willing private sellers using Forest Legacy Program grant funds and private donations is a great investment, in the future, for generations to come. At approximately \$271.00 a acre this is a great deal. Please Thank the existing landowners for their generosity of donating the remainder of the costs. |
| 3 | I would like to go on record in support of these proposed conservation easements in the Drummond area. |
| 4 | I'm very much for the proposed Conservation Easement proposal |
| 5 | See pg. A-2 (Powell County Planning Board) |
-



Planning Department

Powell County Planning Department • 409 Missouri Ave., • Suite 101 • Deer Lodge, Montana 59722
406.846.9729 / bbender@co.powell.mt.us

April 22, 2013

Sharon Rose
Comments Coordinator, Region 2
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
3201 Spurgin Rd.
Missoula, MT 59804

RE: Murray Douglas, Murray Creek, & Douglas Creek Draft Environmental Assessment

Ms. Rose:

The Powell County Planning Board on April 11th discussed the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared by FWP prior to acquiring three conservation easements on approximately 10,760-acres of private land north of Drummond in Powell County. The Planning Board wants to take the opportunity to express to the agency the concerns it has regarding the grazing component found in the easements. As previously noted by the Planning Board, the Board is keen to see grazing language and/or standards in easements have sufficient flexibility ensuring they complement local conditions as well as the requirements of a landowner. The Planning Board communicated these same objectives to Rick Northrup when he appeared before the Board on March 7th to discuss the agency's approach to grazing with conservation easements. The Planning Board greatly appreciates the presence of Rick Northrup at its recent meeting and applauds FWP's efforts to improve overall functionality of conservation easements in Powell County; however, the Board still insists the agency needs to amend how it views grazing management in these documents.

If you have questions regarding the comments contained in this correspondence or Powell County planning / zoning in general, please contact me by telephone at 406.846.9729, or by email at bbender@co.powell.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Bender, AICP, CFM
Planning Director